



**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
Assistant Secretary

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

NOV 28 2008

The Honorable Jon S. Corzine  
Governor of New Jersey  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0001

Dear Governor Corzine:

Thank you for your letter of November 13, supporting a request by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia Airlines, Finnair, and Royal Jordanian for a grant of antitrust immunity to operate an integrated alliance. The Secretary has asked that I respond on her behalf.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's review of this request is part of a public proceeding in which interested parties have the opportunity to comment. The Department carefully considers all requests for antitrust immunity, beginning with a review of the record to assess whether there is sufficient information to make a reasoned decision that satisfies all statutory requirements. Decisions regarding requests for antitrust immunity are made after consultation with the Department of Justice, and are based upon statutory standards that include antitrust principles. As this proceeding is pending, I am sure you understand that I cannot comment on the merits of the case. I assure you, however, that the Department will give full and fair consideration to the Joint Applicants' request, as well as all comments in the docket.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and this response in Docket OST-2008-0252 as a contact outside the record in this matter. I appreciate your interest in this proceeding.

Sincerely yours,

Michael W. Reynolds  
Acting Assistant Secretary for  
Aviation and International Affairs



**State of New Jersey**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
PO Box 001  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0001

JON S. CORZINE  
*Governor*

November 13, 2008

Honorable Mary E. Peters  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
Docket DOT-OST-2008-0252

Dear Madame Secretary:

On behalf of the State of New Jersey, I am writing to convey my support for the joint application for antitrust immunity recently filed by American Airlines and its transatlantic partners of British Airways, Iberia Airlines, Finnair, and Royal Jordanian.

Today, American Airlines and its subsidiary American Eagle employ 260 people in New Jersey. When you consider not only the direct impact, but the indirect impact of American's operations, it supports an estimated 2,200 jobs, most of them based in New Jersey. It is estimated that American Airlines and American Eagle directly and indirectly generate more than \$556 million in annual economic activity as a result of their New Jersey operations. Obviously, the health of this company and its ability to compete effectively on a global basis are of great importance to my administration.

Should you approve their application, American Airlines and its transatlantic partners would finally be able to compete on a level playing field with other airlines that have the same approval that American and its partners are seeking with their application. Rather than hinder competition, I believe antitrust immunity will improve it by creating an entity that will be able to compete effectively with the other airlines that currently dominate transatlantic flying.

American serves Newark Liberty International Airport and its travelers with 18 daily departures to five destinations. Once approved by your department, not only the passengers who fly to and from Newark Liberty, but travelers around the country will enjoy more convenient and seamless travel to the 663 destinations in 134 countries currently served by American Airlines and its partners. Consumers in New Jersey and across the U.S. would have access to a network with more convenient schedules, more flight choices and a greater opportunity to earn and use their frequent flyer benefits around the globe.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope you agree that DOT's approval of this application will enhance competition while simultaneously generating significant benefits for my state and for communities across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Corzine".